MADE A GOOD START

Saunders electedpresident

All present listened carefully to all proceedings, especially to the mayor's inaugural address. which was received with evidences of appreciation.

Alderman Stein was the first man on his feet in the new council. He moved that a committee be appointed to consider and report on rules to govern the new council and that in the meantime the rules of the last council govern the council. Carried.

Alderman Emmer moved that the rules be suspended in order that any communication which the mayor might choose to deliver might be received. Carried.

The mayor read his message and Alderman Jacobs moved that it be ac-cepted and printed. Carried.

Dr. O. L. Dales was appointed to succeed himself on the board of health. A vote on confirmation resulted favorably and Dr. Dales was declared elected.

The following standing committees

Streets Gervers, Ball, Stein, and Jacobs. Health Geson, Forbes and Sloce Fire Department—Gilder, Sloce

Lamps Kinney, Ball and Damek Bridges Jacobs, Maris and Saun Sidewalks Damskey Hauser Licenses-Mahoney, Gilden and Dun-

Charter Amendments Mills, Gezon, Shaw, Teachout and Mahoney.

Alderman Campbell moved that the council proceed to an election of a president. He nominated Alderman Ball and Alderman Hauser nominated Alderman Saunders. The first ballot stood: Ball, II; Saunders, I2; blank I. The second ballot was taken, and it was found that 26 votes had been cast. The trick was laid to some of the ex-aldermen who were in the room. The next ballot stood: Ball, 10; Saunders, 13. Alder-

stood: Bail, 10; Saunders, 13. Alderman Saunders was declared elected.

The Hackmens' union asked for the repeal of the ordinance requiring backmen to take out a license. Referred to the committee on ordinances.

O'Brien Brothers asked to be allowed to erect a stable in the rear of their premises, No. 169 Ottawa street. Referred to the committee on fire depart-

Residents on South Pine street asked for a sewer. Referred to the committee

Adjutant Dapper of Custer post, G. A. R. asked that the remains of five union soldiers now buried in the potter's field be transferred to the lots belonging the post. On motion of Alderman Stein the cemetery commissions were requested to cause the transfers to be

Two long protests came in against the saloon known as Jake Meyer's Lake Road house and asking that no license be granted for the coming year.

Trustees of the Holland Reformed

club remonstrated against a saloon in the near vicinity of their church. Re-ferred to the committee on licenses. The comptroller reported bills calling for sums from the various funds as fol-

lows:	
General fund	2,750 m
Fire lepartment hand	178 40
Police department fund	M 46
Second ward sentitions Latter	3.00
Poor department fund	365 61
Superior court fund	136 (B)
Posice court fand.	100 15
John Ball park fund	2.55
Lincoln park fund	200 .57
Bridge fund	11 73
Valley City cometery fund	127 55
Greenwood cometery food	56 10
Lomp fund	4,136 54
First highway fund.	63 37
Second highway fund.	55.30
Third bighway fund	
Fourth bighway fund	85 70
Fiftle highway fund.	44 15
Sixth coint fund	2.3
Fighth highway fund	74.00
Sinth highway famil.	
Tontis bighway fund	
Elegenth highway famil	13 30
Twelfth highway fund	24 (8)
First sewer district frent	50 38
Second sewer district fund	4 75
Waterweeks income fund	1.61 %
Sherman street improvement	1,000 (0)
The Contract of the Contract o	THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN

Alderman DeGraaf started to win the title of "watch-dog of the treasury" and moved that the bills of jurers in the opening of Crofton arenue and Logan street be stricken from the voil and referred to the committee on ways and means. He objected to the 10 cents

ant Conditions and Future Policy Are Ably Outlined.

Are Ably Outlined.

To the Honorable Common Council of the City of Grand Rapids:

GENTLEMEN—At the beginning of my second term of office as mayor it is not yet too late to express my sincere thanks to the members of the last council for their cordial co-operation and support in the transaction of public business during the year just ended, nor is it too soon for me to say that I hope to enjoy a similar measure of confidence for the year to come, as well on the part of those who have been members of former councils as of those who this evening take seats for the first time at our municipal board. The past year has, in many respects, been an unevental one. No extravagant or uncertain ventures have been entered upon; but we have contented ourseives for the most part in trying to pay what indebtedness had already been incurred, to catch up—so to speak—and to live within the authorized income, which I am confident can eventually be done by proper vigilance on the part of those intrusted with the public business.

The Pinances.

The Pinances.

The annual report made by our city treasurer indicates a financial condition somewhat more favorable than that which was disclosed one year ago, at which time several important funds exhibited balances on the wrong side of the account. In consequence of these adverse conditions it was found necessary early in the year to resort to the expedient of temporary transfers from other funds for the relief of overdrawn accounts in anticipation of revenue thereafter to be derived from the proceeds of annual taxation, an expedient which it ought not to be necessary to resort to at all, and if at all, only in extreme cases, for it is liable to deceive us into the belief that the fund has abundance, when in fact it is bankrupt. The amounts in this manner temporarily

and the further fact that we have dur-ing the past year strictly observed the charter provisions as to the incapacity of one council to bind its successors by contract beyond its taxing power, shields us from the unwelcome apparition of

obligations wearing the garb of financial orphanage and demanding allowance at the hands of the successors of those through whose agency they were first brought into being and left uncared for to shift for themselves.

It should be our aim here at the outset to strike a fiscal gait at which income can keep step with outgo all the
way from start to finish. In order to
do this, there must be exercised at all
times a wise and intelligent economy.
We have about reached the full limit of
taxation allowed by the charter, and the
increase in necessary expenditures
caused by the growth of the city from
year to year, will fully keep pace with
the increase in taxable property, so that
nothing short of an actual curtailment
of expenditure will restore the finances

of expenditure will restore the finances of the city to their normal condition. While unable to indicate any one de-partment or direction in which the nec-

emary reduction can be effected. I am, nevertheless, confident that a proper de-gree of diligence and vigilance in the transaction of business on the part of

this council at all times, even in small matters, can and will secure such a diminution of the outgo as to demon-strate the sufficiency of the income for

strate the sufficiency of the income for all legitimate purposes. As careless legislation or other bad work on the part of the council ineritably results in a drain on the treasury, it follows that an permanent relief can come to the tar-payers unless the utmost care is exer-cised in the inauguration of measures that have their origin in the council

that have their origin in the council No unnecessary drainon any of the city's funds should be allowed to go un-

Economy Must Be Exerci-

when closed—would, in my opinion, soon lead to a correction of the difficulty as far as possible.

The number of local public improvements to be undertaken appears to increase each year, and, indeed, it can hardly be otherwise in view of the prosperity of our citizens and the annual growth of population, and more especially in view of the demands of residents in the new territory which was recently brought within the city limits. In addition to losses resulting from under estimation of incidental expense, if any such there be, the contingent fund during the past year has been subjected to heavy drafts for interest on contractors orders left outstanding beyond the four-month limit. It is not permitted to include in the amount of any special assessment, any sum to meet changes of this clause, because it is not anticipated that any such will accrue. Our only safeguard, therefore, is to prevent the accruing of interest on orders by prompt action in relation to the assessment and collection of special taxes, so as to provide means to pay contractors' orders within the four-month limit.

I repeat what I have said once before: "I desire now again to call the attention of all officers who are intrusted with the expenditure of any of the city's funds to the necessity of studying carefully the condition of the funds with reference to such expenditure. Except in extraordinary cases the annual appropriation to each fund should be the limit of expenditure of that year out of that fund, and a thorough knowledge at all times of the condition of such fund will be of great advantage in entering upon every work involving expenditures."

Our city charter is not a book written for entertainment to be taken up and laid down at will. Its plain provisions cannot, with impunity, be permanently and persistently disregarded. The meaning of its terms in title five in relation to taxes, funds, revenue and expenditure, is unmistakable. The adoption of each annual budget covers an implied contract with our taxpayers that money amounts in this manner temporarily transferred have been from time to time restored as speedily as the condition of the indebted funds would admit; but the process of restitution remains incomplete, and upon this council devolves the duty to accomplish its final completion. The inability to effect full restitution of these transferred sums within the same year, during of each annual budget covers an implied contract with our taxpayers that money raised by taxation shall be applied strictly to the purpose for which it was asked and obtained, and that expenditures in any one year shall not exceed in amount the several sums set forth for the several purposes named in the list of appropriations for that year. final completion. The inability to effect full restitution of these transferred sums within the same year, during which the necessity for making the transfers became imperative, was due mainly to unavoidable appropriations for other purposes, and especially to the large amount of \$29,335.24, which it was found necessary to devote to the payment of a matured contract on and about the police headquarters building, and the similar amounts of \$2,071.82 and \$736.35 to the Madison avenue and sixth ward engine house funds. These items from last year's budget are selected and noticed for the reason that they were special expenditures, not of the class to demand further appropriations during the coming year, and the fact that these liabilities are this year so happily conspicuous by their absence will set free a corresponding amount of revenue for current or other expenses, and the further fact that we have during the past year strictly observed the

I am informed by members of the board of review and equalization that the rolls for local public improvements for the past year are about completed and that they are now ready to proceed with the accessments of the current year. It rests with the members of this council to see that the necessary orders directing accessments are promptly directing assessments are promptly passed and placed in the hands of said board.

ing all incidental ampasses are in many cases so utterly inadequate as to leave these local public improvement funds indebted to the general and contingent funds for advances that ought to be included in the amounts raised by special essential to the fund out of which they were originally drawn. This can never be done unless the estimates and assessments are so adjusted in amount as to afford means for re-payment, nor is it probable that continuous waste in this direction can be altogether stopped. It is our plain and immediate duty, however, to devise and apply any remedy within our power at the beginning of this season's work, and the method indicated above—of having the condition of each fund reported when closed—would, in my opinion, soon lead to a correction of the difficulty as far as possible.

It is on record in the ancient history of our city that the taxpayers of the past were subjected to heavy charges in connection with the opening of public streets through private property, and in connection with the widening and extension of established streets. While the practice of awarding to owners of property taken heavy damages, to be paid out of the general fund of the city, has fortunately fallen into disuse, it remains true that the general and contingent funds are heavily charged annually with the expenses of proceedings

mains true that the general and contingent funds are heavily charged annually with the expenses of proceedings to condemn land for street purposes.

It should be kept in mind that no portion of the court, jury, witness, publication and officers' services and expenses nor of the expenses of making the assessment roll to provide means wherewith to pay damages awarded, can be included in the assessment roll as incidentals in the amount assessed upon the property benefited, but only the bare amount awarded for the land taken. The aggregate of such incidental expense is large and makes serious inroads upon the treasury. It would appear, therefore, that proceedings of this character ought not to be instituted in any case, unless and until every reasonable effort shall have been made to secure by voluntary conveyance a grant of the premises required for street purposes, which in most instances can well be afforded by parties interested, and by proper effort on the part of the alderman or other suitable person, I believe could be obtained.

Improvement Bonds.
Our state legislature has granted addi-Our state legislature has granted additional borrowing powers to raise money for the purposes of street improvements and sewer construction. Whether this will prove to be good policy remains to be seen. Borrowing money is much the same with a city as an individual, and is liable to be carried too far, but in any event the money, when obtained, should be devoted strictly to the purpose for which it was raised, and not used for any other purpose, even temporarily. It seems to me advisable that the proceeds of bonds issued under this clause of our charter should, for the most part, be devoted to street improvements rathbe devoted to street improvements rath er than to sewer construction, for the er than to sewer construction, for the reason that in most instances sewer taxes are so small in amount as to render unnecessary the use of the instalment method of payment, and are spread over such large districts as to make their collection by instalments unnecessarily laborious and very uncertain.

The fruits of indomitable energy on the part of our citizons have ripened in the ratification by the electors in the state of the constitutional amendment relative to the improvement of Grand river as a navigable stream. In response to their herculean efforts it will soon become our duty to submit to the electors of our city the assettion of authorising it

I regret that I am unable to report as yet any thoroughly satisfactory source of water supply, but the matter has been carefully considered by a committee of the council and board of public works during the past year, and is not by any means forgotten or lost sight of, and I trust a decision will soon be arrived at. Extensive additions have been made to our system of water distribution. It is to be hoped their effect will become preceptible in the form of inferenced returns, and that the income may be sufficient to cover working expenses and interest on the somewhat heavy indebtedness incurred in the development of the system. Water bonds to the amount of \$250,000 will mature October 1 next. Seasonable steps should be taken toward the renewal of this loan, or so much thereof as may be found necessary to be renewed, to the end that favorable terms of renewal may be obtained.

Public Lights.

Public Lights.

Concurrent public sentiment in American cities at this time favors municipal cwnership and operation of public lighting plants. It will depend largely on the character and quality of performance rendered under our present three year contract, whether our citizens, at its expiration, shall advocate its renewal or its abrogation, and it will devolve upon the aldermen who were elected this spring to determine this matter before their terms of office shall expire, and it should be determined at an early date, so that if it is thought best for the city to operate its own plant, everything may be put in readiness to touch the button as soon as the present contract expires. The report of the city electrician, recently filed, shows a steady increase from month to month in the per cent of light furnished, and I am inclined to think that the difficulties experienced at first resulted from the system not having been understood or put in proper running order. I believe, however, that the employment of a city electrician was a wise economy, as it has enabled us to know how the contract was being filled and to assert our rights from an intelligent standpoint when the contract was not being complied with.

Support of the Poor.

Support of the Poor. The inclemency of last winter brought forcibly into view the difficult social problem presented by the sufferings of the poor and their relief through municipal agency. How to alleviate the burdens of the indigent and not in the self-same act furnish bread for the indicelent, how to mitigate privation and not by the self-same process propagate pauperism, these are problems that have long awaited solutions. The laudable efforts of several of our prominent citi zens in the direction of organized char-ity merit our highest commendation. They are bright, with the promise of permanent efficacy. Yet our city, as a permanent efficacy. Yet our city, as a municipality, cannot abdicate its "powers, duties, obligations and liabilities" is this direction. Our charter devotes but a short title to the subject, which, however, clothes the council with ample power to provide, by ordinance or otherwise, for the adoption of "such a system for the support and care of the poor as they may at any time deem best." And yet while most of the branches of our city government have been expanded to meet necessities arising through growth and progress, in the matter of support of the poor, we adhere to a system but little differing except in the volume of its disbursements) from that which was established at the beginning of our career as a city. at the beginning of our career as a city, and which, with occasional slight medi-fications, has prevailed ever since. Let us give this department thoughtful con-sideration and bring it up to date if pos-

Public Parks.

Like flowers of the forest, most of the contents of park funds vanish at the coming of winter, the John Ball park fund alone, this year, presenting a semblance of perennial blossom. Expenditure from these funds, and all others, ought to be so governed and regulated as to avoid exhaustion of the year's appropriation before the next year's appropriation begins to come in. I took occasion last winter to criticise the manner of keeping park accounts, and I now sion last winter to criticise the manner of keeping park accounts, and I now suggest that a separate appropriation be made of the amount necessary for the cleaning and protection of each park, and if special improvements are sought to be made in any one park, that an appropriation of the necessary amount be made for that purpose and the work be let by contract, when it happens to be of a kind that can be reduced to specifications, and that each park acto specifications, and that each park ac-count be charged with its own proper expenditure, and that the expenditure expenditure, and that the expenditure for cleaning and protection be kept in an account separate and apart from the expenditure for permanent improve-ment, if any, and that the annual appro-priation to each fund be the limit of expenditure for that year out of that fund

The care of the public streets is one of

the most important functions of the local city government.

It must be admitted that the condition of our streets, though constantly improving, leaves something yet to be desired. I would suggest that the two aldermen in each ward so divide the territory of the ward between them that they can give all the streets in such territory frequent personal inspection, and that they call the attention of the street commissioner to such repairing and cleaning as ought to be done and then follow it up and see that it is done prompsty and properly, and report it to the council if not done. Where there are pavements, if little breaks, rough or weak spots, were at-tended to in this way also and repaired promptly out of the highway fund, the expense would be trifling and it would in many instances save the whole pavement two or three years longer. saving the taspayer a heavy tax and the public a great amount of annoyance.

Many thousands of dollars are paid annually by municipal corporations in the settlement of claims and judgments arising by reason of injuries caused to persons by defective sidewalks. Grand Rapids has been singularly fortunate in this respect but is liable to be caught at any time. Most of the difficulties occur on plank sidewalks, and now that tar, concrete and artificial stone or cement walks are built, so well and at such reasonable cost, I believe that sails of

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this character ought to be ordered where the value of the property will justify it, and very soon the time will come, if it has not already arrived, when a larger fearful lack of a methodical and accurate system of records of all the city's Chicago on April 20 instead of 29, a previously announced. Don't get left.

GEO. DE HAVEN, G. P. A. district extending into the residence portion of the city ought to be fixed within which no other walk would be

Resolutions, also, directing the construction of walks in all cases should give ample time to the owner to build a walk of this character if he desires.

The law and ordinances contemplate that certain classes of business shall be licensed, and as all annual licenses begin licensed, and as all annual licenses begin with each municipal year, and the rule heretofore has been to make applications for licenses to the new council, and it takes three or four weeks to get the applications acted upon and the bonds approved, hence during such time these classes of business, as a matter almost of necessity, have been allowed to continue without license, as it would seem a hardship to shut them up when they have done all they can to comply with the law.

I would suggest that hereafter the rule be established that all applications and bonds be presented to the old council in ample time to permit of their being examined and acted upon prior to the opening of a new municipal year, so that nothing will remain to be done but to have the because at the proper time. issue the licenses at the proper time, and that no one be allowed to continue a business at all without a license, ex-cept perhaps under some excusable cir-

Flushing Sewers.

I am informed that we have several miles of sewers in which there is no running water except such as comes from the various houses connected with them and from the streets.

I would recommend that the commit-tee on sewers make themselves ac-quainted with the location of such sewers

and see that they are frequently and properly flushed.

The Twin Departments.

Our police and fire departments have attained such a high degree of efficiency and perfection that they are the pride of every citizen. Full and complete annual reports of their condition will soon be furnished by the board of police and fire commissioners, and no further notice is called for here.

I am informed that the bodies of five union soldiers are buried in the potter's field in the Valley City cemetery, and that since such burial Custer post of the

Burial of Union Soldiers.

G. A. R., has obtained two or three lots in said cemetery for the burial of their dead comrades, and desire the removal of those above named from the potter's field. I would recommend that the city make such removals at once, under the

One of the most important acts of the last council, in my judgment, was the employment of expert accountants to examine the accounts of the treasurer. An examination had previously been made of the books of a former treasurer for his second term, and this examination was to complete that treasurer's first term and bring the examination down to date, a period of four years.

I am sure that no one will regret that the accounts and funds were all found to be correct for the period covered by

the accounts and funds were all found to be correct for the period covered by them. But a careful examination of the very able and exhaustive report presented by anid accountants will convince any one, if indeed it is not self-evident, that the financial transactions of the city have now assumed such immense proportions that such an examination ought to be provided for by charter enactment to be made every year, or better still, every month or quarter, and I trust they will be continued now.

The suggestions contained in said report are worthy of careful consideration and illustrate what is found in many departments of the city portunes.

ability to, or experience in the department to which they are called, and they try to follow in the footsteps of their predecessor, and thus the system of a city of 10,000 is perpetuated to a city of 10,000. A little money expended to put every department in order would be wisely expended. All the old files and papers scattered about in the garret and in out of the way places ought to be hunted up, looked over and filed in the proper office. All the files and papers in the clerk's office ought to be rearranged, classified and properly indexed. Books ought to be opened and kept, showing a complete history of every piece of real estate owned by the officers in their several departments without additional help for a time, but the amount of the expenditure for such help would be trifling compared with the convenience it would afford and the satisfaction of having everything in order.

order.

Finally, gentlemen, let me caution each of you against getting the idea that you are to legislate only for your ward and that you are to get everything you can for it, regardless of the general good. This spirit will often induce you to grant favors to brother aldermen without much consideration, expecting, of course, to get favors from them in return, and the taxpayer foots the bill. Be attentive, watchful and fearless in regard to every item of business. Each year's added growth of our city adds to the magnitude of our responsibility as public officers thereof.

May it be our constant endeavor to render service with such diligence and with such intelligence that our constituents shall have good and sufficient reasons at the close of our term of office to say "well done."

WILLIAM J. STUART, Mayor.

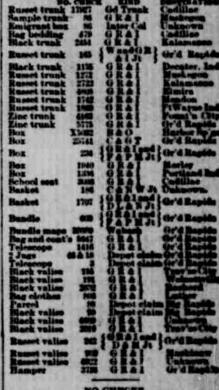
George Lord, ex-mayor of Bay City, died suddenly Sunday.

Chicago & West Michigan trains will commence to leave from and arrive at



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Notice is hereby given that on the Eth day of May, 1800, at 10 o'clock a.m. the following described baggage and other articles remaining unclaimed in the possession of above company, will be sold at public auction at Hartman a building, corner of Fountain and Ioain streets, in the city of franch Rapids, Michigan. Sale will be conducted by I. R. Wilson, auctionese.



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